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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Sorge, J.

Serial No.: 09/338,855

Filed: June 23, 1999

Entitled: **Methods of Enriching For and Identifying  
Polymorphisms**

Attorney Docket No. : 4435/79243

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

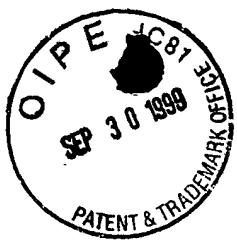
Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment and return postcard to be filed in the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

9-36-99  
Date

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

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Karen Ann Crateau

Name of Person Mailing Paper

Karen Ann Crateau

Signature of Person Mailing Paper



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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend claim 17 of the above-referenced patent application as follows:

17. (Amended) A method of identifying nucleic acid sequence differences with respect to a reference sequence comprising:

a) cleaving a nucleic acid sample from one or more individuals with one or more sequence-specific cleavage agents to produce nucleic acid fragments, wherein the ends of only a subset of the fragments comprise sequences capable of being operatively linked to a separation element;

b) operatively linking said subset of step (a) with [said] a separation element to produce linked molecules;

c) separating said linked molecules to produce separated molecules; and

d) detecting one or more nucleic acid sequence differences with respect to a reference sequence in the members of said separated molecules of step (c) [with a method capable of detecting one or more nucleotide differences with respect to a reference sequence].

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment corrects a defect in antecedent basis in the claim as originally filed. Support for the language added to step (a) of claim 17 may be found at page 7, lines 7 and 8 of the specification.

Respectfully submitted,

9-30-99  
Date

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